



City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Meeting Minutes Energy Commission

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

5:30 PM

City Hall Council Chambers - 301 E. Huron St.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Appleyard called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm

ROLL CALL

Approved

Present: 8 - Wayne Appleyard, John Hieftje, Fulter Hong, Dina Kurz, Kenneth J. Wadland, Brigit Macomber, Cliff Williams, and Mike Shriberg

Absent: 4 - Charles Hookham, David A. Wright, Joshua Long, and Michael Delaney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved unanimously on a voice vote

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved unanimously on a voice vote

Energy Commission April 12, 2011 Minutes

PUBLIC INPUT

No public input

ENERGY REPORT - NEWS FROM THE ENERGY OFFICE AND COMMISSIONERS

Nathan Geisler: Thank you to the Commissioners who came out to Earth Day on May 1st. It was a big success as it is every year. Particularly the outreach and education subcommittee. Dina did a great job at getting to eye level with some of our shorter/younger table visitors. Commissioners Macomber, Williams, Appleyard, and Hieftje were there also.

The next event is the Mayor's Green Fair 6pm-9pm on June 10th downtown. We will send an email around to get tabling for that high traffic event. Another annual event coming up is the Michigan Energy Fair at the Mason County fairgrounds in Ludington from June 24th-26th. If commissioners or the public are interested, please visit www.grea.org (Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association) for more information.

Another item of note, DTE plans to spend \$225 million to build its first wind farm next year. Three wind farms will be in Huron and Sanilac Counties. There will be 50 turbines generating about 108 megawatts. They also plan to add about 1,200 megawatts of renewable power. Half generated at their own facilities and half purchased from other companies.

DTE solar current program is now fully subscribed. No more applications at this time.

Commissioner Macomber: Will the DTE wind farms feed directly into the grid? (Commissioner Williams confirms).

Mayor Hieftje: Thanks for bringing up the Green Fair. We're going to have a solar band again this year. It's always a fun event and nice time to be out on Main Street. There was an exciting announcement yesterday and it has more to do with reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the area. The announcement was that the high speed rail that also gives us the first phase of funding for the Fuller Road station. It funds the preliminary work and will reimburse us for the environmental work already done. It will also pay for the design and engineering. When that phase is completed, the next phase of funding will be coming along. This is \$196 million on top of \$160 million given to Michigan from last fall. This money doesn't require a match and is money that Florida rejected. Mayors Bing, O'Reilly from Dearborn, both national senators, a couple of house members and Ray LaHood from DOT were there to accept. Very positive for our state. Once track improvements are done, I believe our commuter rails will get started. Those will connect Detroit to the airport, Dearborn, Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor. The Fuller Street Station is where the medical center is and where 24,000 people work every day. It is the most visited place in the entire state on a daily basis.

I saw some emails from commissioners talking about input on energy with design team for parking structure/bus terminal. Nate can put you in touch with Eli Cooper about that. The actual design team for the terminal is Mitchell and Mowat who did the one on 4th and Washington. It's the best looking parking structure around. There will be artwork incorporated in both the parking and bus station.

Commissioner Wadland: What's the construction schedule on Fuller Road?

Mayor Hieftje: Parts could start to go in this fall. The rail would get running by 2013. Money will include new cars and engines for Amtrak.

Commissioner Appleyard: I don't have the particulars on it, but there is a new study out about moving the entire globe to 100% renewable in four decades. They basically said it was possible. Somewhere approaching a trillion dollars a year for the next 40 years. The fact that it's possible is always good to look at. I believe it was done by the IPCC or the IPE- the group that has been doing leading climate change work over the last 10 years.

Mayor Hieftje: I have one more thing. At the last council meeting the new energy challenge goals were unanimously adopted (by 2015: municipal operations using 30% renewable energy and reduced greenhouse gas emissions 50% from 2000 levels; community-wide using 5% renewable energy and reduced greenhouse gas emissions 8% from 2000 levels).

SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK PROJECT - Jamie Kidwell

Jamie Kidwell: I am the sustainability associate for the city and was hired specifically for this project. I've been at the city since July and have been working on this project exclusively since January.

A little background on the project; It's an 18 month project funded by a \$95,000 grant from the Home Depot Foundation. I am working with Matt Naud and Wendy Rampson at the city to push the initiative through.

Our project goals are to build a framework of goals, objectives and indicators that will guide city planning. We are reviewing the plans that exist in the city and then working to tie broad goals to objectives and then tie indicators to those goals. So, instead of just saying we want zero waste, we are specifying the amount of waste to reduce by and then using annual waste diversion as the indicator. So making sure that we have our goal, we have a means to achieve it and we can measure it, as a way to push sustainability initiatives forward.

Another part of this will be to create a more transparent organization of our city goals. We have done a lot of sustainability planning in the past which are spread over many different departments. It makes it hard for staff and the public to understand all the goals we are undertaking.

A third goal is to ensure that we are thinking about sustainability in every new plan we do and every city decision we make. It helps us determine how we institutionalize sustainability into every day planning at the City of Ann Arbor and every day project work. We've done a lot of good things but a lot of it has been informal so this will help in taking the next step in institutionalizing what we do.

What we are going to do with this project is look at all of the city plans we have (around 25) and determine what goals we are addressing and find any goals we may be missing as a city. Right now we see expanding our environmental goals to take on social goals and economic goals as well and taking on a triple bottom line approach to sustainability. The 25 plans are at all different levels of implementation. Some are commission approved, some are council approved, and some have not gone through the process yet. Part of this is finding out where all these plans fall and reorganizing them accordingly.

We are going to have two key deliverables: a document and a web component. The web component we really see as the bulk of this. It's a chance to take all the plans we have and highlight where the plans overlap and relationships. Address the conflicts between plans and where goals converge. The document will be something manageable under 40 pages that hopefully staff will use and look to and gives council and commissions an idea of what our goals and plans are.

Our project timeline is 18 months. We started in January to come up with the framework and create this super structure for all of our plans. We have six months set aside after that to come up with an action plan that allows us to prioritize goals and tie it into the two year budget and ensure we are pushing along certain specific goals. We have broken this into four phases. The first phase is what we are in right now (a needs assessment) which includes a background analysis and we've been doing interviews with city staff. We decided to start this process internally although a lot of these goals have gone

through commission, council and the public input process as they are part of these 25 plans. We are starting internally to get the staff engaged and ensure that we are creating something valuable and not just another plan.

Phase two will be forming the internal working group and filling in the gaps and making sure we have these objectives applied to the goals. We expect to have a draft in July. We will be carrying that out in Phase three to the public, to the commissions and hopefully tying that into the web-based portion. The last phase will be the action plan I mentioned.

We have been conducting the interviews to gauge what plans staff know about and gauge the utility of the different plans. To start the internal feedback loop at the staff level and get suggestions about different products we can produce along the way. The two key deliverables being the website and the document but what other things can we create that will be helpful for the staff. We have started working on executive summaries of each plan in a very uniform one page template that let new staff, commissioners, and others flip through and let them learn about the key goals. The education component has been something that has come up a lot in these staff interviews. Another thing we've been working on is a comprehensive plan list that include approvals and by which commission and having a plan timeline come out of that as well.

We've also been blogging and putting up posts every two weeks from Matt Naud and me. It allows us to communicate with staff internally and also allows us to reach out to other communities. It keeps the process very open and allows city staff, the public and other cities to follow us in this process. Any questions?

Commissioner Shriberg: For the implementation plan, what level of detail are you going to get to in that? With it being such a huge task with 25 plans, what is the end goal detail level you are shooting for?

Jamie Kidwell: Our internal working group will likely reform this. We will pick some priority areas and then go from that. We have our 10 environmental goals that will be worked into this and then determining something like Clean Water for this year and working to push through a few key objectives from that goal.

Commissioner Shriberg: When you're talking about sustainability you're talking about the broader definition right? (Environmental, Social, Economic.)

Jamie Kidwell: Yes, the three pillars.

Commissioner Macomber: I'm not sure if the energy commission has a sustainability plan but I'm wondering with the recent revisions to the energy challenge, is that the sort of thing you will be taking into account?

Jamie Kidwell: Yes. I am also trying to capture all the resolutions that are not captured in plans and that will be another component of it. That's one of the challenges right now- how do you roll that all into one and capture it all. The energy goals are definitely on the agenda.

Mayor Hieftje: She just answered it but I was going to say our work is just a component of the sustainability plan.

Commissioner Appleyard: Thank you for that wonderful presentation. I'm sure

we'll be hearing from you again.

Nathan Geisler: I can send around the link to the blog that Jamie referenced earlier for this project.

ENERGY COMMISSION CHAIR

Commissioner Appleyard: We tabled this last time. I am fine doing it unless someone else wants to be Chair. Another thing we looked at is amending the bylaws to have an assistant chair in case I happen to not be here and they would automatically take over. Does anybody have any thought on that? It's not anything that we have to do.

Mayor Hieftje: One of the reasons for having an assistant chair is a way to groom the next chair and so you begin to create a succession policy. One of my concerns is the burden put on the chair and we don't want to burn someone out. If someone was brave enough to step into the secondary seat with the idea that they might become chair in the next year, that would be helpful.

Commissioner Appleyard: That's something to think about at least. We do not have to act on it right now.

Commissioner Shriberg: I don't know what the process is but I think we should add a vice chair and amend the bylaws. That might be a good step for today and then worry about whom another time. I would feel very comfortable with that.

Mayor Hieftje: If you want to consider that a movement, I second it. What I think we can do is decide if we want staff to develop the language which I think would be pretty simple.

Commissioner Appleyard: Any other discussion on that?

Commissioner Macomber: In addition to grooming it could also be someone who helps you with the work currently. An assistant role

Commissioner Appleyard: Absolutely, that would be wonderful. If there is no other discussion on it lets put it to a vote.

Commissioner Appleyard: I assume staff will be able to grab language from some other commission that already has a vice chair and we can vote on that next time.

SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS

Energy Production

Commissioner Wadland: A small group met last Tuesday about advanced hydro and traditional hydro. We are still in the process with that. Nothing to report on that issue at this point. Our next meeting will be June 8th at 6pm.

Community Education and Outreach

Commissioner Kurz: We last met just in advance of Earth Day. The primary focus was developing an outreach effort for Earth Day which involved having folks who stopped by the table understand their contribution to the production of carbon through their activities and to use the energy challenge booklet to provide a teaching moment and make pledges for May. I've had one green commute this month and I'm participating in the Get Downtown commuter challenge as well. Meeting two goals with one action.

Our next meeting will be June 9th at 5:30 pm in councils work room. We'll be focusing on the communications plan and marketing plan for energy and outreach efforts. We are also going to be coordinating with Wendy Barrett who spoke last meeting about the PACE program.

Commissioner Macomber: I wanted to thank Lisa and Kim and a few other people who worked on getting the materials ready for the earth day festival. It really worked out well. People were excited about coming up and signing up for a pledge on the table. Nice job and thank you for your work.

Commissioner Appleyard: It was great. Reducing that to one sheet was a really good idea. Very manageable and a nice list on the back.

Finance and Facilitation

Commissioner Appleyard: We had a wonderful meeting. We discussed working on rental housing and energy awareness and reduction program for rental housing – student housing particularly. It's an offshoot of a paper that several students put together this semester as well as some of the work done on the Home Depot grant. Basically what we would be doing is developing a database and website where students and other people looking at rental housing would know in advance how much they are going to pay for the energy they use at that particular apartment. Also, a handout with energy efficiency items and ways they can further reduce their energy usage. At the same time we can use that along with the PACE program and spur some additional energy work by those building owners. It's hard because building owners are not paying for the costs. That was the bulk of the meeting. WE will continue to go forward on that.

On the 20th of May at 9am we are going to have a meeting here on the 4th floor at City Hall to discuss that further with Matt Naud and a few other people. It's open to anyone interested in working on that project.

Commissioner Macomber: Wayne, I just wanted to mention I think Mike Schriberg may be interested in joining that project. Mike were you saying you cannot make it on the 20th?

Commissioner Shriberg: Probably not, but I can get back to you.

Commissioner Macomber: It might be worth getting together and scheduling another day and time.

Commissioner Appleyard: We'll talk to Mike about that.

Nathan Geisler: In addition to that we'll also have a building department representative there.

Commissioner Appleyard: Our next meeting is scheduled for June 1st at 6pm at a place TBD. We have had problems getting into the building after hours. I'm not sure if that will be worked out. We'll try to do it here in the council prep room on the 2nd floor unless you hear otherwise. If there is no other discussion on that we are now opening the floor to public input. Since there is no one in the audience, I doubt we will hear from them.

Commissioner Hong: I forgot to mention two things during the energy commission update, first the solar installation in the McKinley Town Center building. That building is where bar Louie and Google are located. There is a 19.78 kilowatt solar installation there that went live this past week. The second thing I wanted to mention is net zero home is opening after the Green Fair on June 11th with the proceeds going to growing hope. The target was to get 1000 people. The Clean Energy Coalition is involved with that also.

Commissioner Appleyard: Great. Google has some more solar energy.

Commissioner Hong: I give a lot of credit to McKinley Town Center. They were pretty instrumental in allowing that to happen.

Commissioner Appleyard: Maybe we can take a fieldtrip there sometime and check it out. Good to know about the open house on the 11th. It's a 100 year old home.

PUBLIC INPUT

No public input

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Commissioner Appleyard: If there are none from the commissioners we will have something to do next month.

Nathan Geisler: There was talk about getting someone in regarding Solar Currents: Ray Zoya at DTE. I can continue to make that effort. That's one thing. I will reach out and see what we can do there.

A good reminder from Commissioner Kurz that It is commuter challenge month. If you work downtown log in and set up an account online with getDowntown.

Commissioner Wadland: Are we choosing the Vice chairmen next time?

Commissioner Appleyard: First we have to put it into the bylaws and then vote on the bylaws next month. That is on the agenda next time.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn passed unanimously on a voice vote at 6:15 pm

Visit www.a2gov.org/energy to learn more about Ann Arbor's Energy Programs

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